Global EbA Fund – Open Calls for Proposals

Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your interest in the Global EbA Fund Open Calls for Proposals. Below are the frequently asked questions. Please make sure to review the call-specific resources, as well as the Grants Procedure Manual before applying.

Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply?

Categories of eligible recipients include the following:
A. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
B. International non-governmental organisations (INGOs)
C. Intergovernmental organisations (IGOs)
D. Community-based organisations (CBOs)
E. Indigenous People's Organisations
F. Universities and other academic institutions
G. Research institutes and think tanks
H. Private sector companies
I. Consortia of organisations that promote collaboration and greater impact around EbA.

For a full list of eligibility criteria, please refer to section 2.4 in the Grants Procedure Manual.

Which projects are eligible?

Only project applications that meet the following criteria will be considered for review:

- Must qualify as "Ecosystem-based Adaptation" (Please ensure your project ultimately aligns with EbA Qualification Criteria & Quality Standards).
- Must have catalytic and innovative potential to create enabling environments for EbA.
- Clearly identifies the climate impacts it is aiming to address and clearly describes how they will be addressed.
- Falls under a maximum of 1 Strategic Objective and a maximum of 2 Action Pillars of the Global EbA Fund.
- Project is Global, Thematic, or otherwise targets only ODA-eligible countries.
- Proposed budget of up to USD 250,000 for Small-size grants and up to USD 500,000 for Medium-size grants.
- Project duration of 24 months or less.
- Project must be built / based off existing work.
- Clearly demonstrates how results will be maintained and developed after the funding period.
- Must engage with local institutions and organisations.
- Lead applicant and partner organisations are well-grounded in the proposed area(s) of work and have previous similar experience.

- Projects should consider gender responsive approach to project design and implementation and be participatory and inclusive. Lead applicant and partner organisations must be legally recognised entities.
- Lead applicant must comply with the Due Diligence requirements of the Global EbA Fund.

Does the lead applicant need to be legally registered in the implementation country?

The lead organisation may be based in a non-ODA-eligible country, but the project activities should benefit ODA-eligible countries. Please refer to section 2.4 in the Grant Procedures Manual for eligible organizations.

However, for both windows for projects with country-level activities a consortium with one or more local organizations is required with at least 25% of the budget allocated to local partners, subject to full compliance with all standards and due diligence requirements. These partnerships should demonstrate clear mechanisms for capacity transfer, shared decision-making, and long-term institutional strengthening to foster local ownership, sustainability, and effective knowledge transfer.

In a multi-country arrangement for a Global EbA Fund grant, does the budget holder need to be in one of the countries where the project will work on?

The applicant organisation, which will sign the agreement with the Global EbA Fund and is therefore the principal budget holder, does not have to be located in one of the identified beneficiary countries. However, in this case, they should have work experience in the project country(ies), EbA experience and/or expertise, and one or more local partners.

Can my organization apply again to the Global EbA Fund?

Yes, any organisation that has received funding from the Global EbA Fund and successfully implemented their project may apply again in a different project area. Please note that the Global EbA Fund will not support a second phase of a previously funded project.

In addition, the Global EbA Fund encourages proposals in geographical regions that have not previously benefited from its support.

Can government partners be involved in the proposal?

In line with current IKI policies, the Fund will not grant directly to government partners. However, the Fund will provide grants to organisations working with national, sub-national and local governments to create an enabling environment for EbA and support the implementation of strategic partnerships. Thus, government partners/entities can be beneficiaries but should not receive direct funding.

Are consortia considered acceptable project applicants?

Consortia are welcome to apply. However, there should be a clearly defined lead agency, the "Applicant Organisation", as detailed in the application template. This organisation, if successful, would be the responsible contract party.

Can organisations submit more than one proposal?

Yes, organisations may submit more than one proposal for either Call for Proposals, as long as the proposed projects meet all eligibility criteria. Please note that a unique account must be created on the Application Portal for each additional proposal submitted to the same window.

Are individuals eligible to apply for funding through the Global EbA Fund (e.g., for PhD study)?

Grants provided by the Global EbA Fund are open only to organisations with established legal status and cannot be applied toward funding for individual study. However, an individual's institution and its legal entity, which may be eligible for funding, may apply on their behalf.

Are UNEP and IUCN Secretariat eligible to apply for funding from the Global EbA Fund?

The Fund will not grant directly to UNEP and IUCN global, regional or country offices. Sub-granting to such offices is also not permitted.

IUCN members are generally eligible to apply, given they adhere to the eligibility criteria.

Country eligibility

Which countries are eligible?

Please refer to the Official Development Assistance (ODA) list of eligible countries: https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/sub-issues/oda-eligibility-and-conditions/dac-list-of-oda-recipients.html

Where can I find the list of active and closed projects?

You can review the list of active and closed projects of the Global EbA Fund's portfolio on the Fund's website to identify countries that are currently underrepresented: https://globalebafund.org/projects/

Application

Where can I find the information on the calls for proposals?

The information of both calls for proposals is available at: https://globalebafund.org/medium-size-grants/; https://globalebafund.org/small-size-grants/. The recordings of the informative

webinars are available on our website in the resources section: https://globalebafund.org/resources/

What are the grant sizes for each call?

Up to USD 250,000 for small-size grants.

Up to USD 500,000 for medium-size grants.

Do applications need to address all Global EbA Fund Strategic Objectives? What about all three Action Pillars?

All proposed projects requesting funding must clearly contribute to one of the Global EbA Fund Strategic Objectives as well as fall under a maximum of two of the three Action Pillars.

Learn more about the Strategic Objectives and Action Pillars in the Grants Procedure Manual.

Can proposals be new or standalone projects/programmes?

Global EbA Fund projects should not be standalone interventions. Projects should address a gap in existing work or knowledge, contribute to policy upscaling, enhance the impact of an investment, and/or serve to develop a larger proposal to another funding mechanism. Projects should leverage existing knowledge, standards, partnerships, and experiences. Projects should not be comprised exclusively of field implementation.

What is the timeline for the submission of applications to the Global EbA Fund?

Submission windows for each call:

- Small-size calls: September 28 to October 26, 2026
- Medium-size grants: October 12 to November 16, 2026

How do I apply to the Global EbA Fund? How can I access application documents?

Applications may be submitted through the IUCN Grants Portal. Application documents and all details on eligibility, process, and timelines can be found on the Small-Size Grants and Medium-Size Grants sections on our webpage.

In what language can I submit my application?

Applications must be submitted in English. Applications that are not submitted in English will not be considered for review.

Which documents do I need to upload when submitting my application?

When submitting your proposal, you will need to upload the following documents:

- Theory of Change and Logframe (template available on our website and IUCN Grants Portal)
- Budget (template available on our website and IUCN Grants Portal)

- CVs of the proposed team
- Organigram
- Map of the proposed project location (if available)

Is it permissible to issue seed grants under the proposed project?

No, the Global EbA Fund will not support a seed grants program directly.

How do I ensure I can access and fill out the Global EbA Fund application form properly if my internet connection is not very good?

The application process is designed to allow easy access to application documents from anywhere in the world and to accommodate use from devices with low bandwidth. Application forms and details are available in the links shared for each window, and we encourage you to complete the forms before your online submission. And if feasible, please plan ahead to submit in advance of the deadline so that you can resolve any internet connection issues that arise.

Is co-financing required?

Own- or third-party funds are not a requirement; however, co-financing from the applicant would demonstrate an institutional investment in the project.

Selection process

When should I expect to hear back on the outcome of my application?

Applicants will be contacted once they have been moved onto the Due Diligence Review Stage. Decision letters will be sent once the selection process has been completed.

Due to the high volume of applications, we are unable to provide individual feedback on unsuccessful applications.

Are applications reviewed on a rolling basis as they are submitted, or will the review process begin only after the submission deadline?

We will start the review process for each window once it has closed (26 October 2026 for small-size and 16 November 2026 for medium-size).

When are projects expected to start?

We anticipate that selected projects will start in 2027.